

CLAIMS

All pending claims are reproduced below for the convenience of the Examiner.

No claim amendment is presently requested.

1. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web made from fibers, the fibers comprising thermoplastic fibers, said nonwoven web having a first end and a second and opposite end, said nonwoven web defining a first area having a first basis weight and a second area having a second basis weight being located on said nonwoven web according to a predetermined pattern, said first basis weight being at least about 1.5 times greater than said second basis weight, said first area comprising from about 25% to about 75% of said nonwoven web, the web being compressed and thermally bonded together.

2. (Original) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said nonwoven web comprises a spunbond web.

3. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said first area and said second area form a repeating pattern.

4. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 3, wherein said first area and said second area comprise alternating columns.

5. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 3, wherein said first area surrounds said second area, said second area comprising discrete shapes.

6. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 3, wherein said first area comprises alternating rows and alternating columns.

7. (Original) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 2, wherein said fibers comprise polypropylene fibers.
8. (Cancelled).
9. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said first basis weight and said second basis weight are from about 0.2 ounces per square yard to about 9 ounces per square yard.
10. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said fibers comprise polymeric crimped fibers.
11. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said first area comprises from about 40% to about 60% of said nonwoven web.
12. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said fibers further comprise pulp fibers.
13. (Cancelled).
14. (Original) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said nonwoven web comprises a meltdown web.
15. (Original) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said nonwoven web comprises an air laid web.
16. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said polymeric fibers comprise multicomponent fibers.
- 17-26. (Cancelled).
27. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web comprising extruded polymeric fibers, said nonwoven web having a first end and a second and opposite end, said nonwoven web comprising a spunbond web, a meltblown web or a coform web, said

nonwoven web defining first areas having a first basis weight and second areas having a second basis weight, said first and second areas being located on said web according to a predetermined pattern, said first basis weight being at least 1.5 times greater than said second basis weight, said first basis weight and said second basis weight ranging from about 0.2 ounces per square yard to about 9 ounces per square yard, the web being compressed and thermally bonded together.

28. (Original) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said first basis weight is at least 2 times greater than said second basis weight.

29. (Original) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said polymeric fibers contain a material selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polyester, nylon, and combinations thereof.

30. (Original) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said polymeric fibers comprise polypropylene.

31. (Original) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said polymeric fibers are crimped.

32. (Original) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said first areas comprise from about 25% to about 75% of said nonwoven web.

33. (Original) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said first areas and said second areas are in alternating columns.

34. (Original) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said web comprises a meltblown web or a spunbond web.

35. (Previously Presented) A laminate comprising:
a first layer comprising a substrate; and

a nonwoven web adhered to said substrate, said nonwoven web having a first end and a second and opposite end, said nonwoven web comprising thermoplastic or elastomeric fibers, said nonwoven web defining first areas having a first basis weight and second areas having a second basis weight located on said nonwoven web according to a predetermined pattern, said first basis weight being greater than said second basis weight, said first basis weight and said second basis weight ranging from about 0.2 ounces per square yard to about 9 ounces per square yard, the web being compressed and thermally bonded together.

36. (Original) A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said substrate comprises a meltblown web.

37. (Original) A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said fibers contained within said nonwoven web comprise polypropylene fibers, and wherein said first areas and said second areas form alternating columns.

38. (Original) A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said nonwoven web comprises a spunbond web.

39. (Original) A laminate as defined in claim 38, further comprising a third layer comprising a nonwoven web, said nonwoven web comprising a spunbond web, said first layer being located in between said second layer and said third layer.

40. (Original) A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said substrate comprise a polymeric film.

41. (Original) A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said first layer comprises a nonwoven web.

42. (Original) A diaper incorporating the laminate defined in claim 35.

43. (Original) A wiper product incorporating the laminate defined in claim 35.
44. (Original) A personal care product incorporating the laminate defined in claim 35.
45. (Original) A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said substrate comprises a meltblown web and said nonwoven web comprises a spunbond web.
46. (Original) A laminate as defined in claim 45, wherein said fibers contained within said nonwoven web comprise bicomponent polymeric fibers.
47. (Original) A laminate as defined in claim 46, wherein said bicomponent fibers are crimped.
48. (Previously Presented) A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said first areas of said nonwoven web surround said second areas, said second areas forming discrete shapes.
49. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said first area extends in the machine direction of the web.
50. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein the first area extends in the cross machine direction of the web.
- 51-58. (Cancelled).
59. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein the first area extends from the first end of the nonwoven web to the second end for providing strength across the web.
60. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined as claim 27, wherein the first areas extend from the first end of the nonwoven web to the second end for providing strength across the web.

61. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined as claim 35, wherein the first area extend from the first end of the nonwoven web to the second end for providing strength across the web.

62. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein the web is compressed and thermally bonded together by being through-air bonded and calendered.

63. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein the web is thermally point bonded together.

64. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 62, wherein the web is first calendered and then through-air bonded.

65. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 62, wherein the web is through-air bonded and then calendered.

66. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein the web is compressed and thermally bonded together by being through-air bonded and calendered.

67. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein the web is thermally point bonded together.

68. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 66, wherein the web is first calendered and then through-air bonded.

69. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 66, wherein the web is through-air bonded and then calendered.

70. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 35, wherein the web is compressed and thermally bonded together by being through-air bonded and calendered.

71. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 35, wherein the web is thermally point bonded together.

72. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 70, wherein the web is first calendered and then through-air bonded.

73. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 70, wherein the web is through-air bonded and then calendered.

74. (Previously Presented) A non-woven web as defined in claim 1, wherein the web consists essentially of polymeric fibers.

75. (Previously Presented) A non-woven web as defined in claim 27, wherein the web consists essentially of polymeric fibers.

76. (Previously Presented) A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said non-woven web consists essentially of polymeric fibers.

77. (Previously Presented) A non-woven web as defined in claim 1, wherein the nonwoven web comprises a coform web.

78. (Previously Presented) A non-woven web as defined in claim 27, wherein the nonwoven web comprises a coform web.